



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home  
Is Our  
Business*

**HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT  
Public Hearing  
Testimony  
February 7, 2023**

**To: Chairmen Rep. Haddad, Sen. Slap, Ranking Members Rep. Haines, Sen. Kelly,  
and distinguished Members of the Higher Education and Employment  
Advancement Committee**

**From: Jim Perras, CEO**

**Regarding: Proposed S.B. 936: An Act Concerning Workforce Development. (Support)**

**Proposed S.B. 740: An Act Concerning Critical Skills in Demand by Employers in  
the State. (Support with Amendments)**

The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut (HBRA-CT) is a professional trade association with almost nine hundred business members statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut residents. Our association of small businesses consists of residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in Connecticut each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

**The HBRA-CT urges the passage of Proposed S.B. No. 936 and S.B. 740.** Connecticut has one of the oldest residential construction workforces in the country, in part, because younger people are trending away from careers in construction. This shortage of skilled labor has had a significant impact on the industry's ability to build affordably, which in turn has contributed to the housing attainability issues facing our state. Fourteen years of anemic housing production has also had negative impacts on the Connecticut economy, as it has made it difficult for businesses to attract and retain employees.

With regard to **S.B. 740**, the HBRA-CT appreciates the intent of the bill to identify and address issues that hinder workforce development in Connecticut. To that end, **the HBRACT suggests that the bill be amended to specifically require the study of existing apprentice to journeymen ratio requirements for the licensed skilled trades.** Adjusting the ration apprentices to journeyman would help add jobs as Connecticut continues to dig its way out of the earlier job losses seen in 2020 and would help to position the residential construction workforce to respond to the construction dollars coming from the federal Inflationary Reduction Act. Now is the time to act.

**Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 936 and S.B. 740.**

